

"THE WICKEDEST MAN IN NEW YORK"

This is How Thaw Described Stanford White to His Old Mother.

AGED LADY MADE A SPLENDID WITNESS

Even Jerome Did Not Dare to Subject Her to Severe Cross-Examination When She Told of the Great Sor-row of Prisoner's Life.

NEW YORK, March 6.—Another dramatic chapter was added to the history of the trial of Harry K. Thaw for the murder of Stanford White to-day, when the mother of the defendant took the witness stand to contribute what she might toward saving her son from the death chamber which menaces him. Mrs. Thaw in the forenoon the jury was brief. When Mr. Delmas had deftly limited her examination to the change she had noted in her son's condition following his return from Paris in 1902, after a few moments told him her life-story, and when District Attorney Jerome had with great consideration, conducted a short and ineffectual cross-examination, the mother-love of Mrs. Thaw for her son, Thaw and she felt she had done her all. She was loath to leave the witness chair.

"There is the question of heredity," she protested when both Mr. Delmas and Mr. Jerome told her she might step down.

"I have asked you, madam, all that is considered necessary," said Thaw's attorney with the lawyer's deference. Mrs. Thaw half rose, hesitated, and was about to sit down again when the leading counsel for the defense offered her his hand to assist her from the stand.

Mother Broke Down.

Twice during the recital of the events which had caused her to fear that all was not right with her son, Mrs. Thaw broke down and was unable to proceed. Her face flushed, and she made an effort to speak, but the words would not come. After a few moments Justice Fitzgerald asked solicitously if she felt able to proceed, and Mrs. Thaw evidently much chagrined that her great grief had overcome her strong will of resistance, nodded in the affirmative. She declined a glass of water; made an effort once more to proceed, but failed. Justice Fitzgerald then interposed a relief for which the elder woman was deeply grateful. He said that as many of the witness's remarks had been uttered in a very low voice it would be necessary to have the stenographer read all her testimony up to that time to the jury. When the reading was ended, Mrs. Thaw had regained her composure and was able to proceed to the end of her narrative.

Wickedest Man in New York.

She said that when Harry came home in 1903 he seemed depressed and apparently had lost all interest in life. He passed sleepless nights, would often leave the table at meals and go into the parlor to play upon the piano, the music growing softer and softer until it finally died away. She told in a motherly way of her solicitude for the boy.

"He told me a wicked man—probably the wickedest in life."

It was not until some time after he had offered this explanation of the change in him that she learned the story of the young woman who was to become her daughter-in-law.

Jerome Taken by Surprise.

The district attorney was taken by surprise and began to cross-examine Mrs. Thaw in a very low voice. He asked the conditions surrounding the increase in her son's allowance, but Mr. Delmas objected. He asked what the son's income amounted to. Mrs. Thaw said it was moderate, and nothing like the sum the newspapers have often reported. Mr. Jerome next treaded upon what he must have felt was the thinnest of ice lest he put himself in the attitude to harass the pathetic figure in black on the witness stand.

He asked the mother what she knew of her son's relations with Miss Nesbit before she became his wife.

"Nothing," she replied without hesitation.

Breathless Interest of Listeners.

Mrs. Thaw's story was deeply impressive in its simplicity and brevity. Her anxiety to go on and tell more added immeasurably to the meaning of her presence as a witness. The half-filled courtroom listened almost with breathless interest to each word she uttered, and there was a general sigh of relief when Mr. Jerome announced that his brief examination was ended.

If Harry Thaw's fate is thrown into the hands of the twelve men in the jury-box who to-day heard the mother's story, there seems little doubt that what she said will carry wonderful weight with it.

But Mr. Jerome gave the impression that he might use the mother's testimony as a weapon in another direction—in his fight to have a commission appointed to test the present state of mind of the defendant.

But Two More Witnesses.

With the completion of Mrs. Thaw's testimony to-day, Thaw's attorneys announced that they would have but two more witnesses—experts—who will be called upon to answer a newly framed hypothetical question covering the entire case from beginning to end. These ex-

BELLE ISLE AS PLANT AND PARK

Mr. F. J. Gould Offers It at \$25,000 Less Than Condemnation Price.

MAYOR'S SPEECH EVOKED PROFFER

Mayor Declares Consent Not Necessary to Condemnation, and Does Not Regard Steel Plant Prospect Seriously—Beauty of Isle as Park Site.

Considerable interest was manifested about the City Hall yesterday in the announcement of an offer from Mr. Frank J. Gould to dispose of the Belle Isle property to the city at \$25,000 less than the valuation placed upon it by condemnation commissioners.

The offer of Mr. Gould seems to confirm the statement of Mayor McWhorter in his address before the Council last week, the letter practically making the admission that Belle Isle is the key to the water-power situation in Richmond. Ownership of the island has been said by lawyers, engineers and others who have studied the matter to involve control of most of the water-power not now in use, and to seriously limit the city's supply for the Old Pump-House.

Its Strategic Importance. The island lies just opposite the old pumping-station, below Hollywood. An old dam diverts a part of the river to the north side of the island into a forebay, from which is drawn the power for the Old Pump-House. The various manufacturing plants on the island are operated by water-power drawn from the south channel. The former owners of the island objected to the heightening of the city's dam, or to diverting any greater portion of the channel to the north side of the island, thus limiting the facilities of the Old Pump-House to its present capacity.

Similarly the former owners objected to damming the river below the island and the rights of the city in its water-fall are legal questions which have been considered by the courts and definitely established. It would be difficult to say how far up the river these rights extend, however. It is probable that the present owners of the island could object to any dam above their property which diverted the current toward the north bank, away from the side from which they now draw power.

The Old Dominion Iron and Nail Works have made the claim that the present New Pump-house and water for the settling basin is diverting as much water as the city is entitled to. It has been intimated that mandamus proceedings would be instituted if the city dam above Belle Isle were enlarged or any greater part of the current turned to the north shore.

What the Mayor Said.

Mayor McWhorter said in his speech before the Travelers' Protective Association that the ownership of sufficient water power for all future condensation was essential to the welfare of the city.

The mayor said in this connection: "I think it is now essential that the people of this community should wake up and guard the paramount rights of the people of this city to all the water which they want out of James River. And I say what I have said before, that I do not think there is any court in this land—not only in this city, but in this country—that can deprive the people of the city of Richmond of their inherent, inalienable right to the water in James River; and if they are deprived of it, it will be by the chicanery and by the manipulation of law which is being used by the Citizens of the United States and of this State; it will be by the corruption of law and not by the justice of law. The people of the city of Richmond are entitled by the gift of God, by

(Continued on Twelfth Page.)

COMMERCIAL MEN MEET HERE TO-DAY

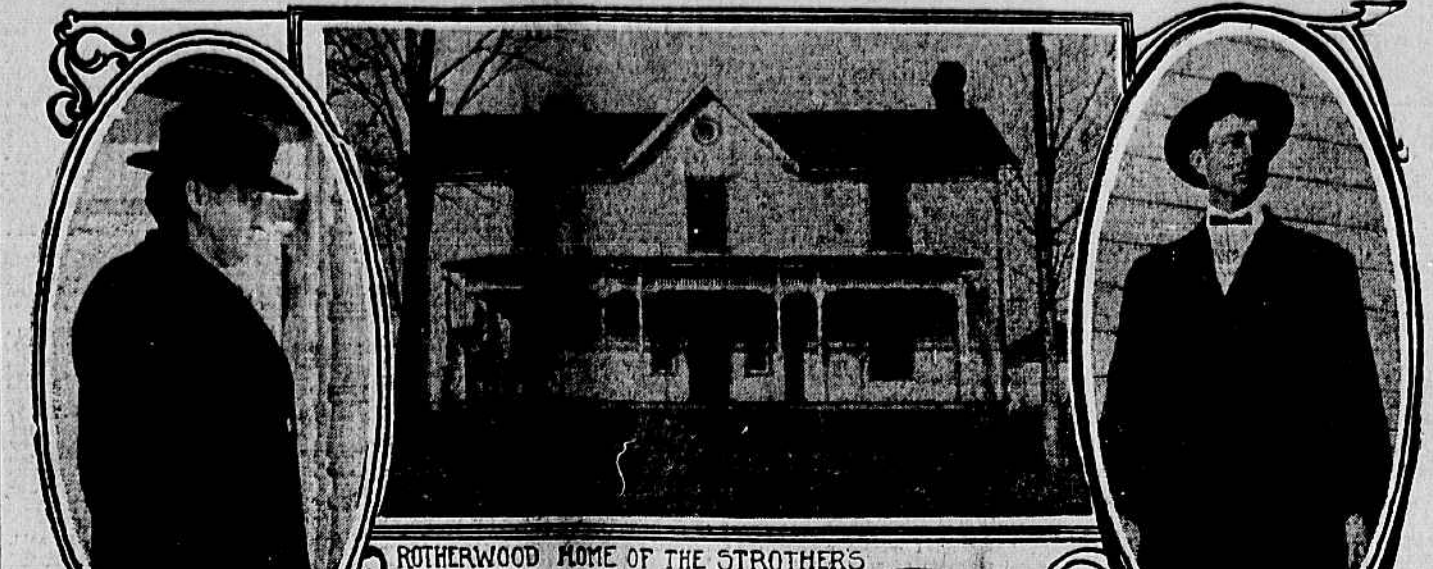
Representatives of All Lines and Sections Seek Better Freight Service.

A most important meeting affecting the commercial interests of the entire country will be held at the Jefferson Hotel this morning at 10 o'clock. The meeting, a movement that will result in accomplishing a most important purpose to the trade. The delegates would not go into details last night concerning their prospective work, but they said the general purpose of the meeting was to secure better and quicker freight service throughout the country.

But Two More Witnesses.

With the completion of Mrs. Thaw's testimony to-day, Thaw's attorneys announced that they would have but two more witnesses—experts—who will be called upon to answer a newly framed hypothetical question covering the entire case from beginning to end. These ex-

STROTHER HOME, STROTHER BROTHERS, DEFENDANTS, AND WILLIAM F. BYWATERS, WHOSE LIFE THEY TOOK



ROTHWOOD HOME OF THE STROTHERS



James A. Strother

TERRIFIC BLOW; SHIPS IN DANGER

Monitor Florida Wallowed In Troughs of Heavy Seas—Inspectors Faring Badly.

STEAMER ARAGON DISABLED

Limping Back Into Chesapeake Bay in Teeth of Wind One Mile an Hour.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) NORFOLK, VA., March 6.—A gale of great severity blew off the Virginia coast early this morning. At least one steamer, the Aragon, has been disabled, and the United States monitor Florida, with a naval board of inspection aboard, has had a fierce encounter with the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

The wind reached a velocity of fifty-six miles an hour at Cape Henry this morning, and it blew at not less than forty-eight miles in the troughs of the wind and waves off the Virginia coast. Blowing from the west and northwest, vessels were driven off shore rather than in.

"READING" HELD THE STAGE CENTRE

Great Fight on Stock Exchange to Gain Control of the Road.

IS HARRIMAN THE MAN?

No One Able to Answer the Question—736,500 Shares Were Dealt In.

21 Stocks Shrink Nearly a Billion

Points Lost	Eight Months	Loss
Great Northern	121	\$196,000,000
Northern Pacific	85	124,000,000
Union Pacific	82	64,000,000
Atchafalpa	78	18,000,000
St. Paul	40	30,000,000
Illinois Central	31	30,000,000
Louisville & Nashville	36	21,000,000
Erie	20	22,000,000
Pennsylvania	20	60,000,000
Chicago & N. W.	18	45,000,000
Reading	51	35,000,000
Southern Railway	23	24,000,000
N. Y. Central	25	44,000,000
U. S. Steel	9	45,000,000
Amalgamated	14	18,000,000
Smelting	42	21,000,000
Sugar	30	13,000,000
Brooklyn R. T.	36	16,000,000
Interborough Met.	30	25,000,000
Con. Gas	27	37,000,000
Atlantic Coast Line	62	30,000,000

Actual loss on 21 stocks \$900,000,000

NEW YORK, March 6.—Sensational

buying of shares of the Reading Company to-day gave Wall Street its most exciting experience since the Northern Pacific contest of six years ago. Reading had been strong in the face of a generally weak market all through the morning session of the Stock Exchange, when shortly after 1 o'clock there developed an enormous buying movement in the shares, which carried the price up more than eight points in half an hour.

Up to the close of the market there was nothing official to show the source of the purchasing orders, but a persistent rumor was in circulation that E. H. Harriman was buying the stock, with the object of acquiring control of the property.

It was said also that the Reading stock held by the Lake Shore had been turned over to Mr. Harriman, so that he would have absolute control.

The reports as to Harriman buying were given credence in spite of the lack of anything official to confirm them, but there were other rumors. One of these was that J. P. Morgan and Company, who formerly dominated Reading, were buying to resume the former position in the property. Another was that the New York Central, which owns the Lake Shore, was adding to the Lake Shore's holdings of Reading, and a third attributed the buying to the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western. Still another rumor was that Mr. Frick was buying back stock that he sold some time ago at higher prices.

All the time that the stock was going up efforts were made without success to discover the source of the buying. Mr. Harriman, who is in Washington, was in-arms of the use of his name in connection with the Reading transactions, and he then made a statement through his secretary to the effect that he was not "interested in Wall Street, and did not care to be denying all the rumors originating there."

Further than this, nothing official was obtainable. The brokerage houses handling the buying orders were numerous, and their identity gave no indication whatever as to the persons for whom they were acting.

The trading in Reading reached the extremely large total of 736,500 shares, or about one-third of all the transactions on the Stock Exchange for the day.

CONFEDERATE VETERAN BURNED TO DEATH

SPARTANBURG, S. C., March 6.—While sitting in front of the fire-place at his home here to-day John T. Wilkins, an ex-Confederate soldier, eighty years of age, was burned to death by a spark of fire igniting the quilt which he had wrapped around himself. At the time his wife was cooking breakfast and Wilkins, being a paralytic, was unable to extinguish the flames. The house was burned up.



Philip A. Strother

HARRIMAN AIRS PRIVATE VIEWS

Fifteen Newspaper Men Sit at His Feet and Hear Words of Wisdom.

"HOW TO DO IT" BY HARRIMAN

On This Text the Mighty Man of Many Millions Moralizes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 6.—E. H. Harriman, the railroad magnate, who has been in Washington since last Friday, to-night granted a far-reaching interview to fifteen newspaper men, announcing at the time that he will return to New York to-morrow and stop talking for publication.

Mr. Harriman discussed transportation problems, railroad legislation, the tariff, the currency question, the attitude of the public toward railroad corporations, and the probability of a panic in the future.

"I notice that the afternoon papers say that the New York Central holdings and those of the old Wasserman pool in the Reading Railway were taken over last night. This is not true. I have not purchased a single share of railroad stocks since I have been in Washington."

He refused to answer the direct question as to whether he had secured control of the Reading.

As to the currency and the tariff, Mr. Harriman said:

"I think that the currency and the tariff questions should be settled in a more definite way before Congress and the present administration devote so much precious time to regulating the railroads. The interests of the country demand that there should be some modification of the tariff, but I fear that the prospects for such legislation are not very encouraging. The United States will not always enjoy the prosperity it has enjoyed during the last decade. Hard times will certainly come again, unless Congress and the people change their tactics toward the railroads and corporate interests."

As an argument against the tendency for a wholesale reduction in railroad rates, Mr. Harriman called attention to the increased cost of everything that enters into the maintenance of railroads. "Even money is higher," he said, "than it has been at any time in the last ten years, and that is just the same to the railroads as if the cost of labor and materials is raised."

Admitting that the railroads to a great extent are responsible for the hostile movement that is now sweeping over the entire country, Mr. Harriman said that the only way to solve the problem was for the government and the great corporate interests to get into closer harmony and to try to bring about a solution that will be to the interests of the government and to the railroads as well.

Mr. Harriman commended the stand taken by President Roosevelt in a recent message to Congress, when he advocated a "reciprocal agreement" between the government and the railroads. "It was a very bold and courageous stand for the President to take," he said, "and the administration to do it to give us a law that will legalize our combines."

ANOTHER WRECK ON PENNSYLVANIA

Train Plunges Down Embankment—Breaks Natural Gas Pipe and Cars Are Flooded.

NINE PERSONS ARE INJURED

Hail Lamps Been Lighted Horrible Explosion Would Have Resulted.

WARREN, PA., March 6.—Train No.

32 on the Western New York and Pennsylvania division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was wrecked to-night between Irvinton and this place. The train plunged over a twenty-five-foot embankment, and nine persons were injured, none fatally.

The train was running behind a freight train from Irvinton to Warren and when three-quarters of a mile from Warren the freight ran onto a siding to allow the passenger train to pass. After the freight was on the siding the passenger started through the switch, which is set from a tower about a quarter of a mile away. The switch was not entirely closed, and two cars were thrown from the rails and down an embankment into a pond. Near the railroad track was a pipe line of the Pennsylvania Gas Company carrying 200 pounds pressure. This pipe line was broken, and the coaches filled with natural gas. There were four passengers in the rear coach, which was turned completely over, and they had a narrow escape from suffocation by gas fumes. Had the lamps in the coaches been lighted, an explosion would have taken place. Nearly every passenger on the train was bruised or cut and several were taken to the hospital for treatment.

URSULINE NUNS FINED BY JUSTICE

NANTES, FRANCE, March 6.—A police court judge to-day inflicted fines of \$2.20 upon each of twenty-seven Ursuline nuns and a fine of \$5 upon the mother superior for persistently refusing to quit their convent in compliance with the law dispersing religious communities.

The defendants pleaded that both the grounds and the buildings themselves belonged to the order, which had been authorized to carry on educational work. The prosecution, while not contesting this argument, insisted upon obedience to the law. A Congregationalist, who at the same time gave warning that further refusal by the nuns to leave the buildings would be followed by ejection.

During the trial the courtroom had to be cleared, because of the demonstrations of a crowd of Catholic sympathizers, who, at the conclusion of the hearing, accompanied the nuns back to their convent with cheers.

CHANGE OF VENUE IN THE HARGIS CASE

Judge Carnes Transfers Trial to Elliott County on Account of Lawlessness in Breathitt.

JACKSON, KY., March 6.—Judge Carnes ordered an order to-day directing that the cases of the Commonwealth vs. James Hargis, Elbert Hargis, John Smith and John Abner be transferred to Elliott county, in the Thirty-second Judicial District. The Commonwealth saved an exception to the order and so did the defendants.

The change of venue was granted on motion of the Commonwealth's Attorney. While Attorney Young, for the defense, favored the motion personally, but for the sake of his client wanted the trial held here. Judge Carnes said:

"In view of all the facts and what I know, I am convinced in my mind of the state of lawlessness here, and that this case should be changed from Breathitt county."

Elliott is totally inaccessible by telephone, telegraph or railroad, and its county seat, Sandy Hook, has less than 200 inhabitants.

Judge Carnes will leave for his home to-night. The militia will go with him.

STROTHER CASE IN JURY'S HANDS; VERDICT TO-DAY

Argument Finished Last Night; Jury Asked Adjournment.

GREAT MAJORITY EXPECT ACQUITTAL

Few Believe There Will Be Hung Jury, and Verdict Will Likely Be Ready When Court Convenes This Morning.

Able Pleas on Both Sides.

BY WALTER EDWARD HARRIS.

CULPEPPER, VA., March 6.—The jury in the case of James and Philip Strother, who have been on trial nine days for the killing of their brother-in-law, William F. Bywaters, at the bedside of their sister, whom he had been compelled to wed a half-hour before, will return a verdict probably within an hour after the court convenes in the morning.

There may be a disagreement, but such a termination of the trial is not expected. The entire day and a three-hour session of the court to-night was consumed by argument of counsel. The court would have given the case to the jury to-night had not they indicated a desire to wait until to-morrow.

There may or may not be significance in the desire of several of the jurors to wait twelve hours before making up their verdict.

The jury listened to between eight and nine hours of speeches to-day. Mr. Moore led off this morning in a two-hour speech for the defense; Mr. Lee, for the prosecution, consumed the remainder of the morning session, and spoke two hours in the afternoon.

Captain Woods, for the prosecution, began at 4 o'clock the speech which was to close the case, spoke until court adjourned, a few minutes before 6 o'clock, and resumed at 7 and spoke until about 10 o'clock.

Argument in Case Up to Highest Standard.

The argument to-day was of the highest order. Mr. Moore sustained his reputation as one of the ablest lawyers in the Commonwealth, and also one of its most eloquent advocates.

His speech was not only an able argument so far as discussion of the legal questions involved was concerned, but was a finished piece of eloquence. Mr. Lee, always eloquent and forcible, has hardly surpassed the speech which he delivered to-day. There may be two opinions as to the wisdom displayed in the attack which he made upon Captain Woods, quoting from a speech made by the latter at a session of the Virginia Bar Association last summer, but it was done in a manner that did not give offense, apparently, and entertained the jury and the audience.

Captain Woods's address was in some respects the equal of any of the day. In manner as well as matter, it commanded not only the attention of all who heard it, but the unequalled admiration of the great majority. It was a powerful argument for the vindication of the law and the upholding of the dignity of the Commonwealth. It was also an ingenious development of the theory of the defense, done with such thoroughness and care that it must have impressed deeply the twelve men in the jury-box.

And from stay to which there was little in it to wound the sensibilities of the defendants at the bar or their family.

Vast Majority Expect Verdict of Acquittal.

It would be idle to speculate as to the probable outcome of the trial, especially upon the eve of a verdict. It was noticeable to-day that those who professed to expect any other than a verdict of acquittal were very few—fewer than on any previous day of the trial.

Philip Strother was much better to-day after his sickness of yesterday, although he still occupied the easy chair brought in for him yesterday. Mrs. Strother, wife of James Strother, was again in court by the side of her husband throughout the day, and Mrs. Geo. M. Williams, a kinswoman of the defendants, was with her all the time. There was nothing in the appearance or the manner of the defendants to indicate that they were in fear as to the outcome. This has been true of the boys throughout the trial, although there has never been the slightest indication on their part of a tendency to assume a swaggering or defiant air.

ABLE ARGUMENT ON BOTH SIDES

Crowds Pack Into Courtroom to Hear Eloquent Pleas of Counsel.

It was in the confident belief that the trial which had lasted nine days was nearing completion, that a large crowd gathered at the courthouse doors this morning awaiting admission and a chance to hear Mr. Moore and Mr. Lee address the jury in behalf of the defendants. The hour for court to sit was 9:30, but counsel and defendants were on hand, and the judge ascended the bench several minutes before the half-hour.

Philip Strother appeared to be feeling much better than on yesterday. He occupied the easy chair in which he had sat in yesterday. James Strother was seated by his wife and by her sister, Mrs. George Williams, a cousin of the defendants.

Mr. Moore began his argument at once. There was little introduction. He plunged into his argument. He declared Rotherwood house the centre of the case. All the various streams